

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Semi-finished product for making plug-in contact in plug-in connection for electric DC power system in motor vehicles which are operated at a normal voltage at which electric arcing may occur, said semi-finished product comprising: having:

an electrically conductive main body made of a non-precious metallic material ~~that carries, at least in part, //;~~

a contact-making coating made of a material more precious than the material of the non-precious metallic main body material, ~~therein the said contact making coating has having~~ a thickness of at least 0.3 μm 0.5 μm to 5 μm ~~and consists of silver or of a silver-based alloy with an addition that will not form an alloy with silver or with the silver based alloy, or will at best form a precipitation alloy, and which has a higher melting point than silver, the addition being tungsten or molybdenum in an amount between 0.5%-15% by weight and, the tungsten or molybdenum not forming an alloy with silver or silver-based alloy but being disposed in fine distribution in grain boundaries of the silver or a silver based alloy; and~~

a diffusion inhibiting intermediate layer disposed between the main body and the contact making coating ~~//, the having a thickness of 0.5 μm to 5 μm .~~

Claims 2-4 (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) Semi-finished product for making plug-in contacts in plug-in connectors for electric DC power systems in motor vehicles which are operated at a nominal voltage at which electric arcing may occur, said semi-finished product comprising:

~~having an~~ electrically conductive main body made of a non-precious metallic material; ~~that carries, at least in , part,~~

a contact making coating made of a material in core more precious than the material of the non-precious main body material wherein the, said contact making coating has having a thickness of at least 0.3 μm and consists 0.5 μm to 5 μm of silver or of a silver-based alloy with an addition that will not form an alloy with silver or with the silver-based alloy, or will at best form forming a precipitation alloy by way of a build-up in fine distribution in grain boundaries of the silver, and which has a higher melting point than silver, the addition being tungsten or molybdenum in an amount of at least 0.2 percent by weight, the contact making coating being deposited in a gradient manner wherein a concentration of the silver or silver based alloy is lower at a surface of the coating than in deeper regions of the coating; and

a diffusion inhibiting intermediate layer disposed between the main body and the contact making coating, the coating having a thickness of 0.5 μm to 5 μm .

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) Semi-finished product for making plug-in contacts in plug-in connectors for electric DC power systems in motor vehicles which are operated at a nominal voltage at which electric arcing may occur, ~~having an electrically conductive main body made of a non-precious metallic material that carries, at least in part, a contact making coating of a material more precious than the material of the main body, wherein the coating has a thickness of at least 0.3 μm and consists of silver or a silver-based alloy with an addition that will not form an alloy with silver or with the silver-based alloy, or will at best form a precipitation alloy, and which has a higher melting point than silver, the addition being tungsten or molybdenum in an amount of maximally 50 percent by weight, a diffusion inhibiting intermediate layer disposed between the main body and the contact making coating having a thickness of 0.5 μm to 5 μm as defined in claim 5 wherein the addition is deposited by a sputtering PVD process.~~

Claims 8-9 (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) Semi-finished product for making plug-in contacts in plug-in connectors for electric DC power systems in motor vehicles which are operated at a nominal voltage at which electric arcing may occur, said semi-finished product comprising:

~~having an electrically conductive main body made of non-precious metallic material that carries, at least in part, a contact making coating~~ made of a material more precious than the material of the main body, wherein the said contact-making coating has having a thickness of at least 0.3 μ m and consists-consisting of silver or of a silver-based alloy with an addition that will not form an alloy with silver or with the silver-based alloy, or will at best form forms a precipitation alloy, and which has a higher melting point than silver, the addition being one or more substances taken from the group of the following substances: Tungsten, molybdenum, graphite, nickel, cobalt, and metal oxides, tin oxide, zinc oxide, tungsten carbide and molybdenum carbide, in an amount of between 0.5% - 15% by weight, the silver or silver alloy having lower concentration at a surface of the coating than in deeper region of the coating; and

~~a diffusion inhibiting intermediate layer disposed between the main body and the contact making coating, the coating having a thickness of 0.5 μ m to 5 μ m.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The semi-finished product as defined in claim 10, wherein the coating is deposited by a supporting PVD process.

12. (Previously Presented) The semi-finished product as defined in claim 1, wherein a material from the following group is selected as material for the main body:

- (a) CuNiSi(X): Materials designated C7025, C7026 according to CDA, (b) CuFeP: Materials designated C194, C19210 according to CDA, (c) CuSn: Materials designated C521, C511, C14415, according to CDA, (d) CuZn: Materials designated C272, C230, C260 according to CDA, (e) CuCrSiTi(X): Materials designated C18070, C18080, C18090 according to CDA,
- (f) CuNiSn: Materials designated C72500, C19025 according to CDA,
- (g) CuSnZn: Materials designated C663, C425 according to CDA,
- (h) CuNiZn: Materials designated C75700, C77000, C76400 according to CDA,

- (i) CuBe: Materials designated C17100, C17410, C17200 according to CDA,
- (j) CuTi: Materials from the family of materials designated C19900 according to CDA,
- (k) Stainless steel: Materials designated
 - 1.4310 according to DIN 17224,
 - 1.4311 according to DIN 17440,
 - 1.4406 according to DIN 17440,
 - 1.4428 according to DIN 17443,
 - 1.4429 according to DIN 17440,
 - 1.4568 according to DIN 17224,
 - 1.4841 according to DIN 17224,
 - 1.4318, 1.1231, 1.1248, 1.1269, 1.1274, 1.5029 according to DIN V17006-100.

13. (Previously Presented) The semi-finished product as defined in claim 1, wherein the product is a strip.

14. (Previously Presented) The semi-finished product as defined in claim 13, wherein the strip is pre-punched.

Claims 15-16 (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The semi-finished product as defined in claim ~~16~~1, wherein the intermediate layer consists of silver or nickel.

18. (Previously Presented) The semi-finished product as defined in claim 1, wherein the concentration of the addition in the silver or silver-alloy coating is lower at the surface of the coating than in the deeper region of the coating.

19. (Previously Presented) Plug-in contacts for electric plug-in connectors made from a semi-finished product according to claim 1.

Claims 20-25 (Cancelled).